

REMARKS

In response to the Examiner's Election/Restriction Requirement, the Applicants hereby elect the claims 1-3 and 6-9, all associated with the embodiment illustrated in Figure 8. As indicated above, claims 4, 5 and 10-13 have been withdrawn from the present application.

The Examiner suggests that the present application is directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

- (a) a first species illustrated in Figure 8 and comprising the mutually exclusive characteristic of a pedestal cover defining a peripheral circumferential groove/trench therein, and
- (b) a second species illustrated in Figure 10 and comprising the mutually exclusive characteristic of a pedestal cover for supporting the wafer, the pedestal cover comprising downwardly extending sidewalls and the wafer positionable over the pedestal cover extending beyond the sidewalls.

The Examiner suggests that no claim is generic.

The requirement for restriction as set forth in the Office Action is respectfully traversed. The Applicants consider the invention to be defined by claims 1-13.

The Examiner's identification of two species and the Figures related thereto correlates with the Applicants' presentation of two embodiments in the application, one embodiment illustrated in Figure 8 and another in Figure 10.

However, the Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 4 and 10 (and their associated dependent claims 5 and 11-13) are generic of the two embodiments. There is no basis in the application for suggesting that the referenced characteristics are mutually exclusive.

Claim 4 reads in pertinent part, "a pedestal cover overlying the upper surface and having downwardly directed sidewalls defining an opening;

wherein the chuck is disposed within the opening and the wafer is positionable over the pedestal cover extending beyond the sidewalls.”

It is noted that the embodiment of Figure 8 comprises sidewalls radially inward of the trench 222, and the Figure 10 embodiment also comprises sidewalls 232. In both Figures the chuck 126 is disposed within the opening defined by the sidewalls and the wafer is disposed over the cover extending beyond the sidewalls. In both embodiments the chuck is disposed within the opening and the wafer is positionable over the pedestal and extends beyond the sidewalls.

In pertinent part, claim 10 includes, “a disk comprising a support member and sidewalls extending downwardly from a bottom surface of the support member, wherein the sidewalls define an opening such that the chuck may be disposed within the opening during the material deposition process, and such that the wafer may be disposed overlying the support member and extending beyond the sidewalls during the material deposition process.”

Figure 8 includes a support member on which the wafer 106 rests and further includes sidewalls as discussed above. The sidewalls define an opening for receiving the chuck 126. The wafer 106 overlies the pedestal cover 222 and extends beyond the sidewalls as shown.

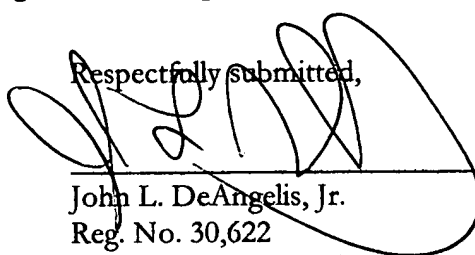
Likewise, Figure 10 includes a support member 231 on which the wafer 106 rests and further includes sidewalls 232. The sidewalls 232 define an opening for receiving the chuck 126. The wafer 106 overlies the pedestal cover 230 and extends beyond the sidewalls 232 as shown.

In any case, to be responsive to the Examiner’s species restriction requirement, the Applicants have elected the species identified by the Examiner as illustrated in Figure 8, including claims 1-3 and 6-9. Claims 4, 5 and 10-13 have been withdrawn in response to the restriction requirement discussed above. It is respectfully requested, however, that the restriction requirement be withdrawn and that a complete examination of the application in compliance with Section 131 be performed.

The Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application or take other action as appropriate to protect the inventions set forth in withdrawn claims 4, 5 and 10-13.

If a telephone conference will assist in clarifying or expediting this Amendment the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this Response to Election/Restriction Requirement is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 4th day of June, 2005.



John L. DeAngelis